

What Is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A method for initialing a synchronization process between a client and a
2 server, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 1) initializing a synchronization query, wherein said synchronization
4 query includes a null data marker; and
 - 5 2) receiving a synchronization result, wherein said synchronization
6 result includes a first data marker.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein a data marker is a synchronization token
2 associated with a state of data on said client.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein a data marker is a number that is sequentially
2 increased by said server with each iteration of said synchronization processes.
- 1 4. A method for synchronizing a client with a server, comprising the steps of:
 - 2 1) receiving a synchronization query from said client, wherein said
3 synchronization query includes a current data marker;
 - 4 2) using said current data marker to determine whether a previous
5 synchronization process was successful; and
 - 6 3) performing a full synchronization process if said previous
7 synchronization process was successful.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
 - 2 4) comparing said current data marker received from said client with
3 previous data markers stored by said server for said client;
 - 4 5) if said current data marker is equivalent to one of said previous data
5 markers,

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- 6 a. determining a first set of instructions to cause said client to
7 roll back to a known state, wherein said known state is the
8 state of information associated with an equivalent previous
9 data marker;
10 b. determining a second set of instructions to cause said client to
11 move forward from said state associated with said equivalent
12 previous data marker to said state associated with said current
13 data marker;
14 c. sending said first and said second sets of instructions, along
15 with a new data marker, to said client for execution;
16 6) if said current data marker is not equivalent to one of said previous
17 data markers,
18 a. identifying a third set of instructions to initialize said client;
19 and
20 b. sending said a third set of instructions, along with said new
21 data marker, to said client for execution.

- 1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said full synchronization process step
2 comprises the steps of:
3 a) identifying a set of differences in objects identified by said
4 server;
5 b) sending said set of differences to one or more
6 synchronization modules to synchronize said set of
7 differences from at least one provider;
8 c) compiling a fourth set of instructions to synchronize said
9 client with one or more synchronization modules; and

